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Receipt is acknowledged of your communication of March 21, 1953, wherein you make inquiry concerning the National Security Medal.

Executive Order 10431 and the regulations promulgated thereunder provide that the National Security Medal may be awarded to any person without regard to nationality, including a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, who, on or after 26 July 1947, has made an outstanding contribution to the National intelligence effort, and that this contribution may consist of either exceptionally meritorious service performed in a position of high responsibility or of an act of valor requiring personal courage of a high degree and complete disregard of personal safety.

It is further provided that recommendations may be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council by any individual having personal knowledge of the facts of the exceptionally meritorious conduct or act of valor of the candidate in the performance of outstanding services, either as an eyewitness or from the testimony of others who have personal knowledge or were eyewitnesses; that any recommendations shall be accompanied by complete documentation, including where necessary, certificates, affidavits, or sworn transcripts of testimony; and that each recommendation for an award shall show the exact status at the time of the rendition of the service on which the recommendation is based, with respect to citizenship, employment, and all other material factors, of the person who is being recommended for the National Security Medal.

It is hoped that the foregoing will be of assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary

15-4052

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March 31, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOUSTON, CIA

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In accordance with our recent conversation, I am enclosing an inquiry from Journal with respect to the National Security Medal. It would be appreciated if you would make reply to this letter, or prepare a proposed reply for our use.

Assistant to the Executive Secretary